

Application No. 10/790,644
Amendment and Response
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant and the undersigned thank Examiner Tran for a careful review of this application and for his time during the telephonic interview on July 18, 2006. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the claims, and in view of the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

After entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1, 3-4, 6-10, 12-13, 15-18, 20-31, 33-40, 42, 57-79 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, 21, 31, 57, 63, and 72 are the independent claims. With the exception of Claims 21-30 and 57-62, all pending claims have been allowed. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected independent Claim 21 and independent Claim 57, and most of their respective dependent claims, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0192227 to Beach et al. After discussion of the outstanding rejections during the telephonic interview conducted on July 18, 2006, Applicant understands that the rejection of Claim 21 will be withdrawn and that such claim is in condition for allowance. In addition, per the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant agreed to amend independent Claim 57, as shown above, which Applicant understands will place that claim in condition for allowance as well. All claims depending from independent Claims 21 and 57 are, therefore, also deemed to be patentable over the prior art of record.

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Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action mailed April 25, 2006. Applicant submits that this Amendment and Response places the application in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully requests such action. If any issues exist that can be resolved with an Examiner's Amendment or a telephone conference, please contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at 404.572.3542.

Respectfully submitted,

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